

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] Referring to FIG. 1, a service creation and execution environment (SCEE) 15 provides an open service creation environment which provides a developer the ability to generate and provision applications using NEOs in conjunction with the service creation and execution application programming interface (SCEAPI) 19. SCEAPI provides access to SCEE which resides in a public network gateway (PNG) by means of referencing NEOs or invoking SCEE compliant applications using directives along with any associated parameters. SCEAPI 19 and SCEE 15 enable the generation and provisioning of services in a manner which is independent of the complexities and nuances of the underlying network infrastructure. In particular, a given NEO may be reused in order to communicate and control a variety of network elements produced by different vendors as variations in the parametric and logical attributes of the network elements are accommodated by mapping a functional or informational element into the control and informational parameters required by the network element. SCEE 15 includes a number of subcomponents in order to provide for a variety of object-oriented application programming interfaces. A common object request broker architecture (CORBA) 17 and extensible markup language (XML) 16 compliant subcomponents have been depicted. Those skilled in the art will recognize that other object oriented application programming interfaces may serve the same purpose without diluting the intent and scope of the present invention. A database 18 is used to store and retrieve information including, but not limited to, applications, network elements, users, interconnected networks, and sessions. A memory 35 is used for storage of service execution logic. -SCEE 15 interacts with the network interface layer (NIL) 14 in order to access, communicate, and control the network elements 1 in the public telecommunications network via a suitable communications link and interface protocol 2.